

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-36 are pending in the present application, claims 9, 15 and 37-41 having been cancelled herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The disclosure was objected to due to a number of informalities noted in the Office Action. These informalities, as well as others noted by Applicant's representative during a review of the specification have been corrected. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9-41 objected to due to a number of stated informalities. Applicant has amended the claims in an attempt to address these informalities, as well as others noted by Applicant. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made to clarify these objections and correct minor informalities are not intended to affect the scope of the claims. In particular, these amendments are not intended to be narrowing amendments. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 27-35, 38, 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejection is moot with respect to claims 38, 39 and 41 which have been cancelled. Rejection with respect to the other claims is respectfully traversed. For the record, Applicant believes that the claims as originally presented, considered in light of Applicant's specification (fully consistent with the law), could not have been confusing to those skilled in the art, and therefore the claims in their

previous form are fully in accordance with § 112. At worse, the claims in their previous form might be considered objectionable but only as to form.

Nevertheless, in deference to the Examiner's views and to avoid or minimizing needless argument, and as indicated above, a number of cosmetic amendments have been made in the claims. Such amendments are of a formal nature only, made to place the claims in better form consistent with U.S. practice. The amendments are not "narrowing amendments" because the scope of the claims has not been reduced in these regards. No indication has been added in these regards and none are intended.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Urano (USP 5,990,898). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 9 has been cancelled rendering the rejection moot with respect to claim 9.

Urano discloses a multi-media data display device for displaying a plurality of multi-media data items on a display screen. One of the examples in which the display device of Urano is stated to be used is in a navigation system for a car. This is discussed in column 20, line 47 through column 28, line 2.

Applicant has revised claim 10 to clarify the claim language, without narrowing the scope of the claim. Claim 10 recites a controlling means for setting a predetermined area centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on the type of the school. This element allows the school zone to

be varied based on the type of school so that the predetermined area centered about a school zone is different among kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools.

By such a feature, the school zone is set reasonably by taking into consideration of commuting distance or activity areas of children or students by setting it smaller for elementary school and larger for junior high schools and high schools. Such a feature is neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that Urano's controlling means sets a school zone centered about a school depending on types of the school (citing Column 25, lines 34-62). However, Urano does not describe changing the school zone area "types of the school". Applicant can find no reference in Urano to "types of the school." Accordingly, Urano cannot and does not anticipate claim 10 and withdrawal of the rejection is appropriate.

Applicant has revised claim 11 (independent claim) to clarify the claim language without narrowing the scope of the claim. Claim 11 recites that a controlling means sets a predetermined area centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on types of roads extending about the school. This element allows the area of the school zone to be set variously depending on types of roads, such as vehicle-only roads, roads with or without pedestrian walks, main roads such as national roads, local roads, or narrow streets. Accordingly, by using the road type data included in the road map data, the school zone is set smaller for the main roads such as national roads or roads with pedestrian walks because the vehicle roads and pedestrian walks are relatively far

apart, for example, and the school zone is set larger for the narrow streets where the vehicle roads and pedestrian walks are relatively closer. Thus, the school zone is set reasonably. Such a feature is neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that Urano's controlling means sets a school zone centered about a school depending on types of roads (citing Column 25, lines 34-62). However, Urano does not describe changing the school zone depending on the "types of roads". Applicant can find no reference to "types of roads" in Urano. Accordingly, Urano cannot and does not anticipate claim 11 and withdrawal of the rejection is appropriate.

Applicant has amended claim 12 (independent claim) to clarify the claim language without narrowing the scope of the claim. Claim 12 recites that a controlling means sets a predetermined area centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on the road density surrounding the school. This element allows area of the school zone to be set variously depending on the road density. Accordingly, information on a number of roads (links), total road distance or road width within a predetermined area included in the road map data is used to predict whether the area is in urban area or suburban area, and thus the school zone is set reasonably by setting it smaller for the urban areas where the road density is high and larger for the suburban areas where the road density is low. Such a feature is neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that Urano's controlling means sets a school zone centered about a school depending on types of road density (citing Column 25, lines

34-62). However, Urano does not describe changing the school zone depending on the "road density". Applicant can find no reference in Urano to "road density" at all. Accordingly, Urano cannot and does not anticipate claim 12 and withdrawal of the rejection is appropriate.

Applicant revised claim 13 (independent claim) to clarify the claim language without narrowing the scope of the claim. Claim 13 recites that a controlling means sets a predetermined area centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zone depending on area division. This element allows the area of school zone to be set variously depending on area divisions. Accordingly, the area is set smaller for highly populated areas and larger for less populated areas where the commuting distance is generally longer, thus enabling the school zone to be set reasonably. Such a feature is neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that Urano's controlling means sets a school zone centered about a school depending on area division (citing Column 25, lines 34-62). However, Urano does not describe changing the school zone area depending on "area division". Applicant can find no reference in Urano to "area division" at all. Accordingly, Urano cannot and does not anticipate claim 13 and withdrawal of the rejection is appropriate.

Applicant revised claim 14 (independent claim) to incorporate the recitations of cancelled claim 9 from which it depended, and to clarify the language. Claim 14 recites that the controlling means sets a predetermined area centered about a school as a school zone and gives warnings about cautions of travel. Further, the controlling means changes contents of the warnings depending on

school types, road types, isolation duration of the area, and vehicle speed. These features allow the contents of the warnings to change depending on school types such as kindergartens, elementary schools, middle schools and other schools. Accordingly, it is possible to give warnings (or warning announcements) reasonably by varying a degree of the warning. For example, in the school zone for kindergarten, the degree is larger because small children may run into the streets suddenly. The school zone for elementary school has a moderate degree of warning because there still is a possibility that the children may run into the roads, while the degree may be less of the middle school because the students can be considered as adults. Such a feature is neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that Urano discloses that contents of the direction (warning announcement) changes depending on school types, road types, isolation duration of the area, and vehicle speed (without citation). However, Applicant can find no such disclosure, and respectfully submits that there is none. If this rejection is repeated, citation to the portion of Urano being relied on is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate.

Applicant revised claim 16 (independent claim) to incorporate the recitations of claim 9 from which it depends and to clarify the language. Claim 16 recites that the controlling means sets a predetermined area centered about a school as a school zone and gives warnings about cautions of travel. Further, the controlling means sends a deceleration command signal to a control device of the car when the car drives through the school zone so as to reduce the speed. These features allow deceleration command signal to be sent to a control device of the car

when driving through the school zone so as to reduce the speed. Accordingly, by not only calling for the driver's attention using the voice warning, but also by controlling the vehicle speed forcefully not to exceed the speed limit, it is possible to enhance the driving safety in the school zones. Such a feature is neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that Urano discloses a deceleration command signal sent to a control device of the car when driving through the school zone so as to reduce the speed (without citation). However, Applicant can find no such disclosure and believes that there is none. If this rejection is maintained, citation to the portion of Urano being relied on is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate.

Applicant revised claim 17 (independent claim), *inter alia*, to clarify the parameter compared to the pre-set value. Claim 17 now recites a voice output means for outputting a voice warnings when the continuous driving is detected by the continuous driving detection means. The voice output means changes expressions of the voice warnings, age and sex of the voice, depending on time zone, season, events or a number of travel. These features are neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

Claims 18-23 depend from and include the recitations of claim 17. Claims 18-23 are believed to be patentable in and of themselves and for the reasons described above with respect to claim 17.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-23 are patentable over Urano.

Claims 28-41 were rejected over 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okuda et al. (U.S.6,262,657). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicant revised claims 28 and 29 (independent claim) to clarify the parameter being compared to the pre-set value. Claims 28 and 29 both recite a voice output means for outputting a voice warnings when the continuous driving (claim 28) or unsafe driving (claim 29) is detected by the continuous (claim 28) or unsafe (claim 29) driving detection means. The voice output means changes expressions of the voice warnings, age and sex of the voice, depending on time zone, season, events or a number of travel. These features are newly added in claims 28 and 29, and they are neither disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 28 and 29 are patentable over Okuda et al.

Claims 30-36 dependent from include the recitations of claim 29. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable in and of themselves and as they depend from and include the recitations of claim 29 which is patentable for reasons discussed above.

Claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Urano in view of Okuda. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

First, it is noted that the dependency of claims 31-33 has been changed to depend from claim 29. Applicant respectfully submits for the reason discussed above with respect to claim 29, claims 31-33 are patentable in and of themselves and as they depend from and include the recitations of claim 29.

Further, the Urano patent does not disclose an unsafe driving detection means, and a voice detection means as recited in claims 29, 31, 32 and 33. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 31-33 are patentable over the prior art of record where the combination is proposed in the Office Action.

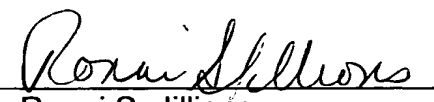
Claims 37-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stam et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0138132). Cancellation of these claims has rendered this rejection moot. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is most respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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